and changes in policies, transactions by large Institutional investors including Foreign Institutional investors and capital market trends overseas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which has statutory powers over the stock exchanges and stock brokers, is keeping a constant watch on the trading in securities in stock exchanges for ensuring the safety of the market and for protecting the interests of the investors. A Surveillance Department has also been set up in SEBI for monitoring abnormal variations in the prices of shares in the stock exchanges and for initiating suitable action as may be warranted.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) and (d) above.

Payment by Jallandhar Doordarshan artists for preparation of Bills

1626. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the artists of Jallandhar Doordarshan were subjected to pay a huge chunk of their earning from presentation of programmes for preparation of bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard to prevent such malpractices in future; and

(d) whether any such complaints were received from other studios, if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) No specific complaint in this regard has been received by the Doordarshan Directorate.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Letters by MPs regarding lapses in Banks

1627. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Members of Parliament have written letters to Government regarding the serious lapses in the private and public sector banks and have sought information on important aspects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Govt. thereon; and

(c) how many of the letters have been replied so far and by when the remaining letters will be replied?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been writing letters to the Government from time to time with regard to the various aspects of the functioning of private sector and public sector banks. The points raised in these letters are normally got examined by the banks concerned and/or RBI. Since a large number of letters have been received, over a long period of time it is not possible to immediately indicate how many of them have been replied to. The general practice is that replies are sent after the requisite information is received from the concerned bank or from RBI.

(d) whether creation of SEBI has at all served the above purpose; and

(e) if not, what other mechanism is contemplated to check this excessive boom/downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The more important factors contributing to fluctuations in the prices of shares in the